

REMARKS

By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to merely clarify the recited subject matter. Claims 1-17 are pending.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the personal interview granted and courteously conducted with Applicant's representative on November 2, 2004. Applicant presents the above amendments and following arguments in conformance with the matters discussed during that personal interview. More specifically, Applicants have amended the claims to clarify how a centre chooses a speech codec: the terminals indicate their supported speech codecs to their associated centres and then the speech codecs supported by the calling terminal are the driving factor according to which a common speech codec is chosen in the handshaking procedure.

The outstanding rejections of the claimed are a rejection of claims 1-2, 4-12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mony (U.S. Patent No. 6,009,383), and rejection of claims 3, 13, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mony in view of Valentine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,600,740; hereafter "Valentine").

Applicant traverses the rejection because the cited prior art references, analyzed individually or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a digital telecommunication system "wherein the first and second transcoder units each include speech codecs and each of the terminals comprises one or more speech codecs, the terminals being arranged to provide information regarding the supported one or more speech codecs to their associated switching centres; the first centre is configured to perform handshaking with the second centre, the handshaking including indication of the speech codecs supported by the calling terminal, wherein at least one of the first and second centres is configured to choose the speech codec used commonly by the calling and called terminals, and wherein at least one of the first and second centres is configured to establish call connections that bypass one or more of the transcoder units or to control the transcoder units to transmit encoded speech between the called and calling terminals without performing speech encoding operations so that speech is encoded and decoded only in the terminals," as recited in independent claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Similarly, the cited prior art fails to disclose, teach or suggest a centre in a digital telecommunication network configured to "receive information regarding supported one or more speech codecs of a calling terminal and connect a transcoder located in a transcoder unit to a call connection when required, wherein: the centre is configured to perform handshaking

with another centre associated with a called terminal, the handshaking including indication of speech codecs supported by the calling terminal associated with the centre, the centre also being configured to choose the speech codec commonly used by the terminals. . .,” as recited in independent claim 14 and its dependent claims.

During the personal interview and in the outstanding Office Action, the Office’s position was indicated to be that column 3, lines 54 - 67 of Mony disclose a terminal supporting a single speech codec, i.e. VSELP codec. Applicant submits that the referred to passage of Mony, thus, fails to disclose, teach or suggest technology or techniques relating to transcoders; therefore, Mony fails to disclose, teach or suggest use of several speech coding algorithms in a transcoder. If, in Money, a digital terminal were used, Mony would simply use only one speech codec (VSELP) in terminals. Therefore, there would be no need to agree on a common speech codec for a tandem-free operation, when there is only one speech codec available.

Furthermore, column 6, lines 13 - 31 of Mony, specifically teach that a handshaking procedure does not include an indication of the speech codecs supported by any of the terminals for choosing the speech codec for the terminals to use. Rather, the referred to passage merely discloses that the handshaking includes information that the transcoder is enabled to operate in a mobile-to-mobile bypass mode (MMB). Thus, Mony merely discloses a conventionally known TFO negotiation between two transcoders, wherein the transcoders start to operate in a MMB mode and the mobile-to-mobile call is switched via a by-pass circuit.

As discussed during the personal interview, Mony’s centres merely receive an indication of which mode to use: a PCM-based mode, if at least either of the terminals is analog, or a MMB mode, if both terminals are digital. However, Mony’s centres do not choose any codec for the terminals to use.

Valentine fails to remedy these deficiencies of Mony because Valentine merely discloses general information regarding MSC signalling including an IAM message and an ANM message. However, Valentine fails to disclose, teach or suggest the possibility of a centre choosing a codec for terminals to use.

Therefore, the combined teachings of Mony and Valentine fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention including the recited features relating to how a centre chooses a speech codec: the terminals indicate their supported speech codecs to their associated centres and then the speech codecs supported by the calling terminal are the driving factor according

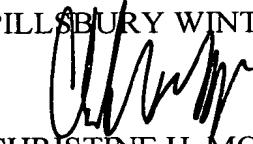
to which a common speech codec is chosen in the handshaking procedure. Thus, claims 1-17 are allowable over the cited prior art.

All issues having been traversed, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for immediate allowance and requests that a Notice be issued to that effect. If anything remains necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned representative.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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